FREE – TAKE ONE

The Romulus News

DECEMBER 13, 2002 – JANUARY 9, 2003 "the little paper" VOLUME 16 NUMBER 11

Timely Tidbits ...

See You in 2003!

The friendly staff at "the little paper" will be taking a couple of weeks off for a little R&R, so our next issue won't be published until January 10, 2003. We wish our readers a happy, healthy holiday season, and look forward to seeing and serving you next year.

McCraight Retires; Replacement Sought

To fill the vacancy that will be created by the January 10, 2003 retirement of its current president, Billy McCraight, the Romulus Community Schools Board of Education is accepting applications from citizens interested in serving as his replacement for the final six months of his term of office.

District residents who would like to be considered for the position must submit a paragraph explaining how they can contribute to the educational opportunities of Romulus children. All applications must be turned in to Carole Bales, executive secretary, at the district's administrative office (36540 Grant Road) by 4 p.m. on Friday, January 10, 2003.

Free Open Swimming

For two days only – Thursday, December 26, and Friday, December 27 – the Romulus Community Schools will offer residents a chance to try out the district's new pool complex, free of charge, during "open swimming" sessions set for 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 4 p.m. All participants must show proof of residence or student ID, must have proper swimming attire (lined bathing suits), and must provide their own padlock for lockers. Youngsters under the age of 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

Pull-out Section Commemorates Pool

Our readers are invited to pull out and keep this issue's centerfold section commemorating the dedication of the Romulus Community Schools' new swimming pool complex. See pages 11–14 for the full story and lots of photos. ❑

Local Baseball Legend Sagasta Harding Dies

Local baseball legend and longtime Romulus resident Albert Sagasta Harding died on Sunday, December 8, 2002, at the age of 94.

The native of Buxton, Ontario, was best known for playing with the 1934 Chatham Colored All-Stars, a Canadian barnstorming team that played against both Negro League and all-white baseball teams on its road to an Ontario Baseball Association championship.

Both Harding and his only surviving teammate, Don Tabron, were recognized by the Toronto Blue Jays on July 13, 2002, during an on-field pregame program held in their honor. The two then threw out the ceremonial first pitch before the Blue Jays' game against the Boston Red Sox.

Harding was well liked and respected by his former teammates. In a 1984 interview with *Sports and Ethnicity*, All-Stars member Kingsley Terrell described Harding (known as "Frog Hand" because, when he held a bat, his top and bottom hand were reversed in position compared to the usual batter's grip) as a good ball player who could both hit and run. He also fondly recalled Harding's piano playing, saying that he had performed with him many times.

Harding is survived by a sister, Marie White (Lansing); a daughter-in-law, Alice Gilbert (Romulus); three grandchildren, Skip (Karen) Harding, Michael (Karen) Harding, and Sandra (John) Mason; two stepgrandchildren, Alexie Powell and Anthony Powell; and one great-grandchild, Aaron Harding.

Among those predeceasing him were his wife, Ruth Ann Harding; a son, Robert S. Harding; a stepson, Richard Rideout; three brothers; and four sisters.

Albert Sagasta Harding (right) and former Chatham All-Stars teammate Don Tabron were honored by the Toronto Blue Jays during a pregame ceremony held on July 13, 2002.

A funeral service was held on Thursday, December 12, at Parks Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church (Romulus), with the Reverend William Phillips officiating.

Burial was at Romulus Memorial Cemetery.

Arrangements were made by Crane Funeral Home (Romulus). ❑

Romulus Senior Jessie Green Dies of Exposure

Local senior citizen Jessie Green was found dead on Saturday, December 7, a victim of hypothermia.

The 85-year-old Romulus Tower resident – last seen on Thursday, December 5, when she stopped in at the Romulus Post Office on Hunt Street – was reported missing Friday. On Saturday, family members discovered her body in a ditch near the railroad tracks east of Shook Road, south of Menton.

According to Lieutenant John Leacher of the Romulus Police Department, Green had a history of mental illness.

"We believe it was due to the mental illness that she got disoriented or lost her way home," said Leacher. "There were no other mitigating or unusual circumstances to her death.

"It was just one of those unfortunate accidents," he concluded.

Among those surviving Green are one brother, Raymond C. "Zeke" Green (New Boston), and eight sisters, Mrs. Frank (Gladys L.) Bordt (Romulus), Mrs. Marian L. Krause (Belleville), Mrs. Harold (Cecil M.) Harris (Allen Park), Mrs. Melvin (Frances F.) Reeck (Adrian), Mrs. Elbert (Laura M.) Davis (Flat Rock), Mrs. Helen L. Kowski (Belleville), Mrs. Gordon (Mildred A.) Miles (Grosse Ile), and Mrs. Dorothy E. Jones (Sarasota, FL).

Predeceasing her were three brothers, Elwin, Mervin J., and John H. Green, as well as two sisters, Evelyn and Alice.

A funeral service was held on Thursday, December 12, at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus), with the Reverend Evans Bentley (First United Methodist Church, Flat Rock) officiating.

Interment was at Mallett Cemetery (Huron Township). ❑

Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: All letters to the editor MUST contain the writer's signature and a telephone number where he/she can be reached in order to verify the letter's authenticity.

Names will be withheld by request only in exceptional cases where, in our opinion, there is a legitimate reason to do so. (Writers need not be afraid to include their name when asking for anonymity, since all such names are kept in the strictest confidence, regardless of whether or not the letter is published.)

The Romulus News reserves the right to edit all letters for clarity and, if necessary, brevity.

Opinions expressed in the "Letters to the Editor" are not necessarily shared by the staff of The Romulus News.

Homeland Security?

To the Editor:

The news media last month cheered the passing of the new Homeland Security Bill. Why? Its focus (and funds) apparently are directed more to the elimination of our civil rights than the elimination of terrorism!

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) policy governing the admission of aliens into our country should not be a political issue; it is necessary for our national security and protection, and that should be its primary focus. The Border Patrol? Undesirable aliens should not be admitted by planeload, boatload, and truckload, and voting registration should be done in accordance with voting laws!

Since the 9/11 horror, investigations have produced lots of information about the terrorists – such as the fact that 15 of the 19 hijackers were in this country on visas which should have been denied under the then-existing laws. We don't need more laws; the INS just needs to enforce the ones we have. They weren't doing that; just granting visas indiscriminately, even to countries which sponsor terrorism!

The Center for Immigration Studies reported that, of the 48 foreign-born radical Muslims who have been charged with and/or convicted of terrorism or who have admitted involvement in it since 1993, only one-third were lawful permanent residents or naturalized U.S. citizens. Apparently, the November election did nothing to counter the open-border advocates who, in the name of diversity, welcome the influx of terrorists or other aliens who do not intend to abide by our laws.

The State Department is accepting into the Diversity Visa Lottery program 50,000 lucky foreigners from non-Western (including terrorist-sponsoring) countries who will win permanent U.S. residency! The Fourth of July murderer at Los Angeles Airport was in the United States because his wife won legal residence! Why has this not been repealed?

The Homeland Security legislation does little to address these problems. Instead, it spends millions of taxpayer dollars to profile *all* law-abiding U.S. citizens and implement the compilation of an automated database which will provide even unscrupulous companies with all our personal information, including health, life-style, travel, and finance! Positive thinking can't help me with that!

So much for civil liberties!

Sincerely,
Lucille Raymond
Southgate

Lighting Project Opposed

To the residents of Romulus:

Since an article in the November 28, 2002 issue of *The Romulus Roman* didn't include the comments made by myself and two other gentlemen at the City's special-assessment hearing held on November 25, I will try and explain our position on the new Goddard Road streetlight project. It is time to forget the politics and take care of our city!

According to a letter I received from the City of Romulus, the purpose of the hearing was "to hear comments on the proposed street light electrical cost increase due to the installation of ornamental lighting in the Downtown Development Authority special assessment district." Apparently, the DDA now wishes to have fancy lights all along Goddard Road, not just downtown, even though the area in question already has adequate lighting.

Note that the City wasn't asking all of Romulus to foot the bill for this rate hike. Only the property-owners of district one, which is the downtown area, would be paying for the increased electrical costs. I asked my neighbors how they felt about the proposal, and we then circulated a petition opposing it.

As talk about what I was doing began to spread, some people told me that it wasn't my business, and that I didn't know what I was talking about. It really made me think. I decided that I would get more information. If my taxes were not involved, then I would stop.

I went to the city clerk's office to see who could clarify this matter for me. Linda Choate, the clerk, had Timothy Keyes, the director of community development, come to her office so that I could ask questions and try to make sense of these taxes.

Mr. Keyes told me that I *was* in the district that would be paying the rate hike. I told him that I had been talking to my neighbors and we all had the same feeling: *no more taxes!*

I explained to Mr. Keyes that many of the people living in the assessment district are lifetime residents, retired, widowed, and living on a fixed income. I, personally, am one of those people with a fixed income, and this added tax would be a burden on me and people like me. His suggestion to me was that maybe I should move out. (Other workers in the clerk's office heard this conversation, too.) I am sorry that this is his attitude. It is time for *honesty* and *integrity*. Since I am a lifetime resident, I don't think I am going anywhere. This town has been without a grocery store five times, and I am still here. The residents moving out are the ones who bought new houses, lived here a couple of years, and now can't pay their taxes.

After I talked with Mr. Keyes, he had the City's financial staff try to find a way to pay for this project without raising the lighting tax. But, no matter where you take the money from, it is still coming out of City taxes. Just like everything else, these will go up each year. Is the City under the impression that this can just be swept under the rug and we will go away?

The DDA is made up of businessmen who do not live in our city. They pay taxes here, but a portion of those taxes are set aside in a fund that they can use to make improvements in the city. The money accumulates until they want to do some project. Wouldn't it be nice if a portion of *our* taxes could be set aside until we could build something for our teenagers and senior citizens, or just be able to hire more firemen and policemen? Many things could be done.

The DDA thinks that fancy lights going all along Goddard Road will enhance the area and bring new business growth to our community. This is like the movie *Field of Dreams* – place the lights and they will come (as my neighbor suggested).

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The Romulus News

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The Crime Blotter

Officer Damian Hull of the Romulus Police Department issued the following "Crime Blotter" report on December 2.

* * *

- **Stolen Vehicle**
11100 block of Wayne Road
A 1998 Dodge Neon was taken.
- **Stolen Vehicle**
37400 block of Van Petten
A 1990 GMC Blazer was taken.
- **Attempted Breaking & Entering**
9200 block of Chamberlain
The suspect attempted to gain entry through the side door, but was not successful.
- **Larceny**
Marriott Hotel
Six coats were stolen from a coat rack outside the ballroom.
- **Breaking & Entering**
Speedway at Wick and Wayne roads
Four suspects broke out the front door of the gas station and attempted to steal cigarettes. All four suspects were arrested in the immediate area by Romulus police officers.
- **Criminal Sexual Conduct**
The victim, a female, accompanied a male to a party. She later woke up to find the male having sex with her, after she had refused his earlier advances.
- **Larceny from a Motor Vehicle**
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Two wheels were stolen from a 1998 Cadillac.
- **Recovered Stolen Vehicle**
6000 block of Colorado
A 1998 Dodge Stratus was recovered by RPD patrol. The vehicle was stolen from Dearborn Heights.
- **Breaking & Entering**
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Five Coca-Cola machines were broken into. ❑

Letters to the Editor

continued from page 2

This is a dream. Yes, we all have dreams, but we also have reality. We accept what is here and what is not. We live here because we love our town.

The downtown area looks very nice, and I am sure it is appreciated by those who live on Goddard. But this additional lighting will only benefit the businessmen. If they want the lights, let them put the poles on their own property and hook them up to their own meters.

There is adequate lighting now, and this would be a waste of tax dollars.

Romulus cannot be compared to other communities with fancy streetlights. We are boxed in by I-94, I-275, the railroad, and the airport. I cannot see how the new lighting will remove these obstacles. Everyone knows that our problem is the airport, but it also brings progress. We have become an industrial city. We need to capitalize on that fact.

For 20 years, this group of people who do not live here has been telling us how our town should look, how we can bring new businesses to the downtown area, and what will bring us new growth.

Now, this group is in the process of trying to clear the land east of town. They want to take down a house in the downtown area to create more parking. Yet the new Romulus Market Place is struggling to keep operating. (This was also said in the clerk's office, and heard by others.) This is a fact. The house in question was built in 1890 and is 113 years old. *Keep our rooftops!*

Let's look back and see what the Downtown Development Authority has done for our community. One of its first projects was to build islands at the sides of our downtown streets and plant trees, only to take up parking space. At that time, there were several more stores to shop at. All of a sudden, those stores had no parking for their customers!

Then it was decided to repave all of Goddard Road. Well, everyone knows what happened there. The grocery store went out of business. And the new Goddard Road was so poorly constructed that it is already falling apart. What a waste of tax dollars!

It's time for Romulus *residents* to start deciding what is best for Romulus. If there were no Downtown Development Authority, and DDA money went into the City's general fund so that our elected officials could decide where to spend it, that would make more sense to me. I know that this money must be used for certain things, and that there are standards set by the State of Michigan. But this is a lot of money, and just because it grows to a million dollars doesn't mean that we should be out there spending it on something completely unnecessary.

Because of the impact that the DDA has on our city, I, for one, think that it should be made up of residents as well as nonresident businessmen. Our city council should check into this so that we can look forward to fair and balanced decisions being made.

At the November 25 special-assessment hearing, I presented our petition to the clerk's office, as it speaks for the majority of residents who oppose this project. We, as citizens, can also file our protest with the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

We urge the city council to follow the wishes of Romulus citizens and turn this project down.

Jan Lemmon ❑

John Rogin
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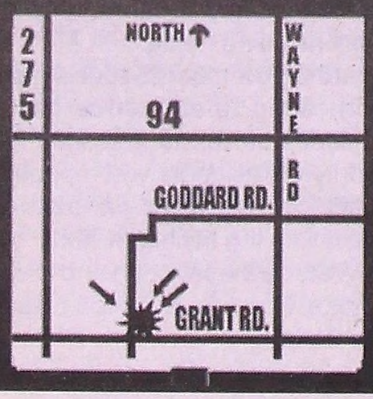

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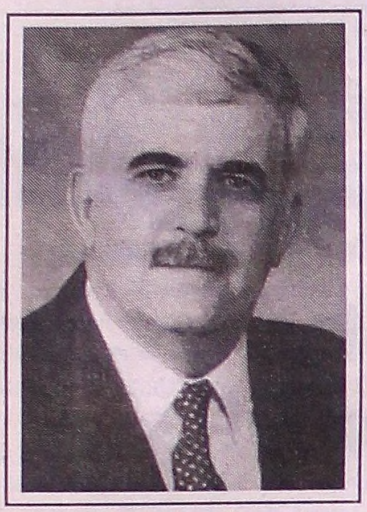


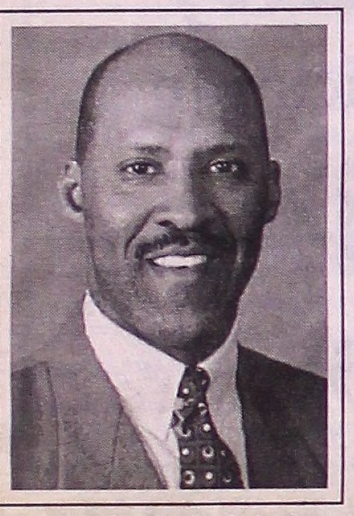
Season's Greetings

From our family to yours:
Have a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season.

Councilman Bill Wadsworth, Jean Wadsworth, grandchildren Sarah, Andrew and Elizabeth, and the rest of the Wadsworth Clan

P.S. Adopt a pet!

Paid for by the Committee to Elect William Wadsworth



Season's Greetings

Hope this is a season filled with pleasant surprises and wonderful moments. Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. It's a pleasure to be of service to you.

Randy Gear
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Romulus

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Randolph Gear

As my first year in office draws to a close, I'd like to thank the people of Romulus for all of their kindness and support.

May you enjoy the very happiest and healthiest holiday season.

Alan R. Lambert, Mayor of Romulus

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Alan R. Lambert

A Few "Good Fellows"

(From left) Romulus firefighters Mike Fyfe, John Thiede, and Bill Litogot from Fire Station #2 prepare for the Romulus Goodfellow newspaper drive, held December 6–7. The annual event raises money for the Goodfellows' "No child without a Christmas" campaign.

Romulus firefighter Chad Blackburn accepts a donation from a Wayne County Sheriff deputy. (Note: The Goodfellows will accept donations of cash & gift certificates, new/unwrapped toys, and nonperishable food at City Hall, the Police Department, and Fire Station #4 until December 20.)

Romulus Deputy Fire Chief Robert Pecsenye (center) counts donations with the help of Vince Bartolo (left) and Bob Pressler. *All photos courtesy of Ron Szwarc.*

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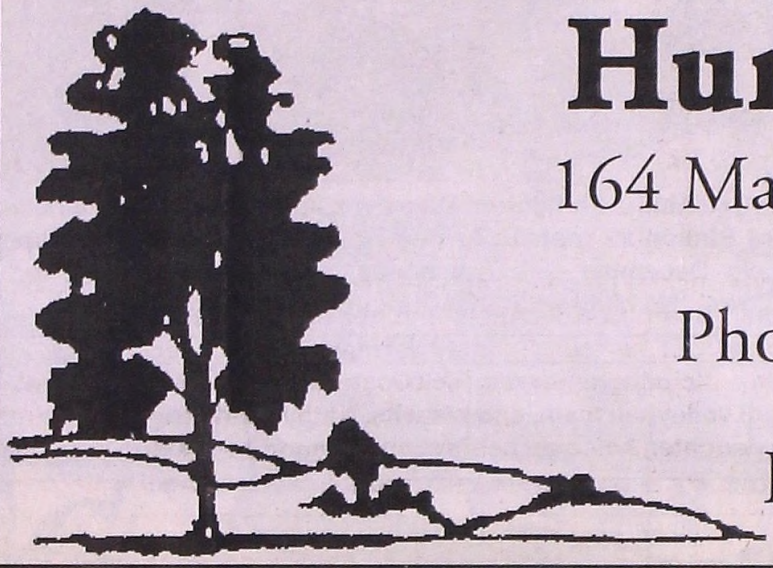

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Awards Breakfast

A recent breakfast held at Romulus High School honored 72 students for consecutive appearances on the prestigious principal's honor roll (3.5 GPA or higher). The elaborate breakfast, enhanced by ornamental ice sculptures, was prepared by the culinary-arts students of Charles Usztics and Angelica Richardson. Principal Dan Hurst was joined by assistant principals Don Foley and Doug Hoffman as he presented plaques and certificates to the awardees.

Two-time Honorees

Aamer Ahmad, Shannon Allen, Darnell Anderson, Kristen Atchley, Shavon Bell, Jazmine Bennett, Tiffany Block, Brenden Boyd, Ronnie Brown, Teela Carroll, Anica Coate, Katie Hale, Paris Hawkins, Latoya Flint, Daniel Kinney, Mallori Losacco, Alexander MacFarlane, Jesse Morris, Antoinette Nelson, Keona Riley, Philip Roscoe, Megan Scott, Sawaira Sheikh, Jessica Shelton, Clifford Smith, Miyon Smith, Paulette Stanford, Matthew Steffani, Avery Stephenson, Kenise Thompson, Joann Tieppo, Natalie Watt, Brytni White, Kimberly Wilson, Lashonda Windham, Ashley Wright, and Jeremiah Yeager-Hudson.

Four-time Honorees

Deborah Anderson, Natalie Blake, Kenneth Booker, Carla Broom, Rhiannon Crawford, Jessica Frost, Toni Gibson, Sarah Gray, Megan Hatcher, Crystal Koch, Sarah Lindroth, Patrick McCollum, Heather Patrick, Lajoya Orr, Kristina Rafalski, Andrew Rodger, Britany Sawdy, Sara Schulz, Ryan Tackett, Laura Tanner, Rebecca Thornton, and Brandon Varga.

Six-time Honorees

Ronald Buckley II, Tiffany Burrell, Taritonye Burutolu, Sherri Davis, Julia Deshazor, Bradley Hindman, Bethany Hotchkiss, Hilary Kozma, Leslie Perez, Demequa Poole, Robert Rice, Donald Richison, and Bethany Swauger. ❑

Cheryle Buckley (second from left), secretary of the Romulus Community Schools Board of Education, and her husband, Ronald Buckley (left), were proud of their son, Ronald II, for making six consecutive appearances on the principal's honor roll. Rick Coate, head coach of the Romulus High School volleyball team, and his wife, Kathy Coate (right), congratulated their daughter Anica on her first and second appearance on the list.

Romulus High School seniors who have earned a spot on the prestigious principal's honor roll for six consecutive semesters include: (from left) front – Demequa Poole, Tiffany Burrell, Ronald Buckley II, Sherri Davis, Bethany Hotchkiss, and Bradley Hindman; back – Bethany Swauger, Julia Deshazor, Hilary Kozma, Leslie Perez, Donald Richison, and Taritonye Burutolu.

Four-time honorees include: (from left) front – Deborah Anderson, Kenneth Booker, Rebecca Thornton, Patrick McCollum, and Toni Gibson; second – Natalie Blake, Megan Hatcher, Carla Broom, Heather Patrick, Sarah Gray, and Crystal Koch; third – Rhiannon Crawford, Lajoya Orr, Kristina Rafalski, Ryan Tackett, and Brandon Varga; back – Paris Hawkins, Kenise Thompson, and Laura Tanner.

Board of Education trustee Ken Mientkiewicz (second from left) joined the High School's administrative team of (from left) Doug Hoffman (assistant principal), Don Foley (assistant principal), and Dan Hurst (principal) for the awards program.

Other honorees and their parents who attended the annual Academic Achievement Breakfast included (from left) mother Pam Boyd and her son Brenden, as well as Philip Roscoe and his mother, Board of Education trustee Celeste Roscoe.

Halecreek Students Excited To Be "Scientist of the Week"

Measha Diebel proudly displays her program-participation ribbon.

Each week, a different kindergartner at Halecreek Elementary School is named "Scientist of the Week."

On Monday, the child takes home a special "scientist's bag" that contains a "scientist shirt," safety goggles, a compass, a flashlight, binoculars, insect-catching equipment, a stethoscope, a tape measure, and a book about simple science experiments, as well as information for the parents. On Thursday, the young scientist brings the bag back to school and demonstrates the experiment that he/she worked on with his/her family. The child also tells the class how he/she used the tools in the bag.

"This activity meets some of the science and language-arts objectives established by the Romulus Community Schools to help children acquire skills to meet State standards," explained kindergarten teacher Cathy Kudra. "It also provides a good opportunity for parents to become involved in their child's educational development."

The children really look forward to their turn to be Scientist of the Week.

"I liked being the Scientist of the Week because I got to use the tools in the scientist's bag," said Jalen Copeland. "I measured the bean bag at my grandma's, and made gas from water and baking soda."

Classmate Measha Diebel added, "I liked the ribbon I got after I showed the class that I could stick a needle into a balloon without making it pop." ❑

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Health Awareness

Editor's note: Articles appearing in the column are written by students from Romulus High School teacher Terri Brinston's health-occupations classes.

Great American Smokeout

By Alex Farhat

November 15, 2002, marked the 26th anniversary of the American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout. The event is held one day out of the year to encourage smokers to stop for one day.

Twenty-six years have marked dramatic changes in the way society views the promotion and the use of tobacco. The Great American Smokeout has helped educate society on the many dangers related to smoking and how it affects the environment and our health. Most importantly, the Great American Smokeout has set the stage for cultural revolution regarding the use of tobacco in our time period.

Every day, businesses prohibit the use of tobacco in their facilities. There have been many landmarks in the area of anti-tobacco efforts. Berkeley, California, became the first community to limit the use of tobacco in restaurants in 1977. In 1983, San Francisco passed the first workplace smoking limitations by providing designated smoking areas. In 1994, the State of Mississippi filed the first 24 state lawsuits seeking to recuperate millions of dollars from tobacco companies for smokers' Medicaid bills.

In the past 26 years, the Great American Smokeout has been celebrated with rallies, parades, strikes, and "cold turkey" ads. Donations and famous celebrities have supported the event throughout its 26 years of success. Some of the supporting celebrities have been Sammy Davis, Jr., Natalie Cole, Edward Asner, and the well-known "spokespud" Mr. Potato Head.

I have learned, through health occupations, that tobacco causes cancer and it damages your body. So why do people do it? Nicotine is the addictive substance in tobacco. Smoke damages the lungs, heart, and hemoglobin. Hemoglobin is the iron-containing pigment of red blood cells which carries oxygen from the lungs to different tissues. Every time you smoke, you are slowly decreasing your ability to carry oxygen to your body.

I believe that people will always smoke. It is great that the American Cancer Society is providing a good effort to help those who want to quit smoking. The ones who want to quit are the ones who make the Great American Smokeout so successful.

The American Cancer Society's Website address is www.cancer.org.

Adoption Week

by Stacey Gilbert

Governor Michael Dukakis of Massachusetts issued the first Adoption Week proclamation and President Gerald Ford then officially proclaimed the week at the North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) conference held later in 1976. Adoption Week came to be observed during the week of Thanksgiving in November. In 1990, the NACAC decided to expand the opportunities for raising awareness and began advertising Adoption Week as Adoption Month.

The purpose of Adoption Week is to focus attention on the increasing number of children in the welfare system that are waiting to be adopted. Of the 588,000 children, 134,000 are waiting for permanent families.

I am so glad that Governor Dukakis issued the Adoption Week proclamation. More people need to know how important it is to adopt children if they want kids and cannot have them. All children need somebody to love them, no matter their race, age, or even what problems they may have.

Some of the risks that can come along with the adoption process can be very stressful, time-consuming, and aggravating. Adoptive parents must always look closely at the medical, financial, legal, and emotional risks that are associated with the opportunity to adopt. After looking closely, the adoptive parents must decide if this is the right opportunity for the child or children as well as for themselves. Not all potential adoptive opportunities are positive or successful. (With the good comes the bad in this world, and sometimes you just have to take the risk.)

Adoption is not just a personal issue; it's a social issue also. When people put their children up for adoption, we the people end up supporting the child. We may not realize it, but we do, because our taxes support them.

In health occupations, abstinence is stressed very much. If a person decides not to choose abstinence or practice safe sex, putting the child up for adoption is a very good idea.

This observance has really opened my eyes to how extremely important adoption is. Hopefully, I have made this very clear to you, also, and you can or will encourage people to adopt.

If you would like to look further into this issue, you may visit some of the adoption Websites, such as:

- adoptionrisks.com
- adoption.com
- adoptablekids.com
- adoption.org
- adoptionmonth.com. ❑

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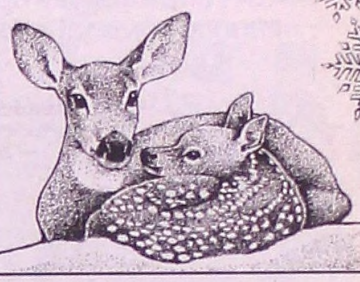

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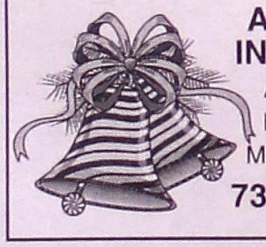

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RCS Pool Dedication

School District's Pool Dedication Draws Big Crowd

Superintendent Joel R. Carr was very pleased to see such a large group of community and education leaders, construction contractors, and citizens at the dedication of the Romulus Community Schools' new swimming complex. The facility – located at Romulus High School – is one of several major enhancement projects that were funded through the district's 1999 bond issue.

Principal Dan Hurst began the program by welcoming everyone to the historic dedication ceremony, held in the High School atrium. Using an analogy that identified the adjacent triple-court gymnasium and upstairs running track as the "groom" and the new pool complex as the "bride," he noted, "After several years of waiting, our handsome groom now has a beautiful bride as a partner."

Hurst expressed his appreciation to teacher Charles Usztics and his culinary-arts students for the excellent pre-dedication breakfast that they prepared and served, and also thanked band director Henry James and his students for providing small ensemble performances.

Superintendent Carr then took the podium and recognized the many people responsible for the design and construction of the pool complex. He thanked representatives from architect Kingscott Associates (including Earl Frazier, head architect Alton Ainsle, and decorator Sylvia Kowalik), pool consultant Bill Robertson, and representatives from construction manager Barton Malow (including vice-president Jim Delage and project managers Todd Ketola, Kevin Waldman, and Bob Royster) for their professional expertise throughout the project.

Carr also recognized the help and involvement of the Romulus Board of Education – president Billy McCraight, vice-president Betty Lenossi, secretary Cheryle Buckley, treasurer April Frayer, and trustees Michael Woods, Celeste Roscoe, and Ken Mientkiewicz – as well as former Board members Ken Berlinn, Debbie Dick, Eva Webb, and Romulus Mayor Alan R. Lambert.

The dedication program continued with Carr's recognition of and thanks to the district's former superintendent, Dr. William M. Bedell, and the High School's administrative team of principal Dan Hurst and assistant principals Doug Hoffman and Don Foley for their help. He also thanked administrative secretaries Carole Bales and Louise Briody as well as High School secretaries Joyce Evans and Bonnie Bossidis for their expertise in organizing and making arrangements for the dedication program.

Additional recognition was given to City officials attending the dedication, including Clerk Linda Choate and Councilmen LeRoy Burcroff and Bill Crova, and to pool director Lance Knudson and swimming instructors Jason Balcom and Deborah Leggieri.

Following the superintendent's address, guests went into the pool area to observe a physical-education swimming class being held in both the training and competitive pools found in the state-of-the-art facility. Consultant Bill Robertson noted that the Romulus pool is "the fastest pool in the state of Michigan at this time, and should provide many exciting events in the future." Water-safety instructor Leggieri, who is also the girls' swimming coach at Riverview High School, added, "There is a lot of talent here in Romulus. We could have swim teams as early as next year."

Guests concluded their visit to the new pool complex by checking their numbered "rubber duck" souvenirs to see if they had won a door prize.

"The dedication was a truly exciting and memorable day in the history of the Romulus Community Schools," Carr concluded. "The entire Romulus educational community – as well as the students, parents, and citizens of Romulus – can be very proud of this outstanding new facility and the educational opportunities it will provide in the future."

Romulus High School students (foreground, from left) Ryan Boyd, Christie Davis, and Philip Roscoe gave out rubber-duck souvenirs to guests such as (background, from left) Joel R. Carr (superintendent), Ethel Lovette (former Romulus teacher), Don Foley (assistant principal, Romulus High School), Mayor Alan R. Lambert, and Pam Fleming (reporter, *The Romulus Roman*).

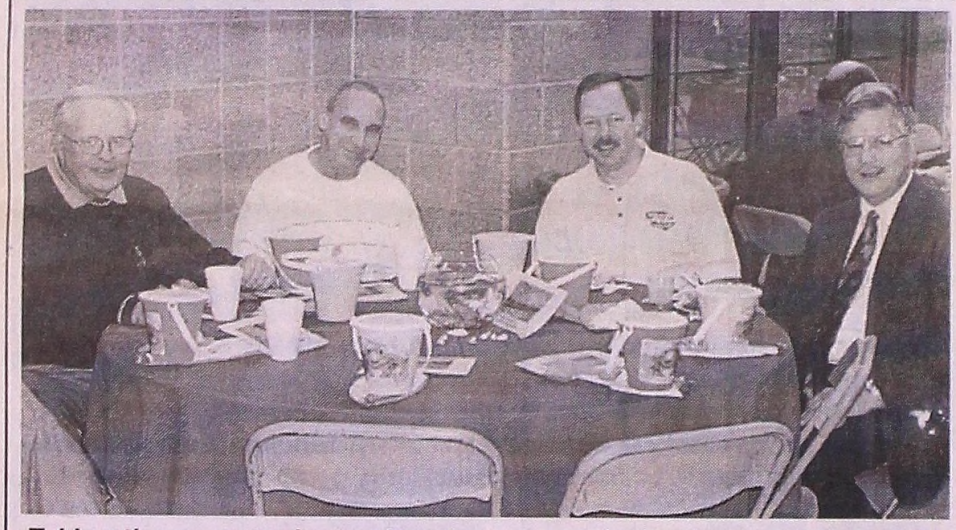
Romulus Community Schools superintendent Joel R. Carr (left) and Romulus Mayor Alan R. Lambert shake hands on the completion of the district's new pool complex. Lambert – a former president of the Board of Education – has been a big supporter of the pool project.

A Pull-out Commemorative Section Sponsored by the Romulus Community Schools

RCS Pool Dedication

Romulus Community Schools Board of Education trustee Ken Mientkiewicz (left) and Board president Billy McCraight got a good look at the new pool as they watched a swimming class in action after the dedication program. According to consultant Bill Robertson, Romulus now has "the fastest pool in the State of Michigan at this time."

Discussing the pool project's development were (from left) Sheila Stasak (physical-education teacher, Barth), Gretchen Notaro (learning specialist, Romulus Elementary), Bill Baum (physical-education teacher, Romulus Elementary), Tom Williams (retired science teacher), and Lance Knudson (pool director).



Taking the opportunity to view the new pool complex were (from left) Romulus Rotarian/Downtown Development Authority vice-chairman Ron Hopson, Rotarian Chuck Shonta, Rotarian/Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce board member Mark Lewkowicz, and DDA chairman Bill Crane.

Also enjoying the program were (from left) Mel Kimbrough (principal, Romulus Middle School), Doug Hoffman (assistant principal, Romulus High School), Jesse Meriweather (district athletic director), and Eva Webb (assistant clerk, City of Romulus; former Board of Education member).

Among the many officials from the City of Romulus were (from left) Mayor Alan R. Lambert, Tim Keyes (director of community development), Officer Tom Ellis (Romulus Police Department), and Councilman LeRoy Burcroff.

(From left) Romulus Community Schools Board of Education trustee Michael Woods, Romulus High School principal Dan Hurst, Romulus City Clerk Linda Choate, and Board vice-president Betty Lenossi were present.

December 5, 2002

Local parents (from left) Paulette O'Connor, Sandy Mills, and Dawn Smith were very impressed with the dedication ceremony for the new pool complex as well as the tour that followed.

Culinary-arts students who prepared the dedication breakfast included (from left) Michelle Roberts, Jennifer Welch, Tiffany Dotson, Julia Deshazor, Alondra Femster, Tanesha Strickland, and Ashlee Jones.

(From left) DoubleTree representatives Tim Kelly and Melissa Kusabab enjoyed the program, as did Rosalie Berlinn (library aide, Romulus High School) and Ken Berlinn (Wayne County Regional Educational Services Agency board member; former member, Romulus Board of Education).

Others attending the dedication included (from left) Lynn Behta (district math coordinator), Carole Bales (executive secretary to superintendent Joel Carr), Robin Omey (executive secretary to human resources director Ed Clark), and Bonnie Bossidis (secretary, Romulus High School).

Kristin Irwin and Herb Buckley – program coordinator and director, respectively, of the City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation – were impressed with the new facility.

Admiring the ice-carving work of culinary-arts student Joseph Miller were (from left) Joyce Evans (secretary, Romulus High School), Dorothy West (learning specialist, Barth), and Janice Barden (parent coordinator, Cory).

RCS Pool Dedication

Still others who attended the pool dedication included (from left) Earl Frazier (lead partner of Kingscott Associates), Bill Robertson (pool consultant), and Jim Delage (vice-president of Barton Malow) . . .

. . . (from left) Shellie Moore (principal, Merriman), Paula Smith (secretary, athletics department), John Juriga (retired technology/shop teacher), and Debbie Juriga (principal, Wick) . . .

. . . (from left) Reverend Edward Thomas, Jr. (Martin Temple Church of God in Christ), Billy McCraight (president, Romulus Community Schools Board of Education), and Leota McCraight (retired bus driver) . . .

. . . (from left) Kathy Hurst (district service-learning corodinator), Pat Adams (district science coordinator), and Barb Jaszcz (district language-arts coordinator) . . .

. . . (from left) Alton Ainslee (head architect, Kingscott Associates), Bill Musham (director, adult/community education), Mike Teasdale (principal, Trenton High School; former assistant principal, Romulus High School), and Rod Hanna (social-studies teacher, Romulus High School) . . .

. . . and (from left) Celeste Roscoe (trustee, Romulus Community Schools Board of Education), Cheryle Buckley (secretary, Board of Education), Bill Crova (Romulus City Councilman), and Dr. William M. Bedell (former superintendent, Romulus Community Schools).

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Have a Joyous Holiday Season

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surrounded by peace and joy.

Thank you for your kind support this past year.

Romulus Community Schools
Board of Education and Staff

Around the District

The Romulus High School Eagles varsity basketball team, under new coach Nate Oats, prepared for the 2002–2003 with scrimmages against top-ranked teams. Players include: (from left) front – Darrin Nevels, Karvens Palliere, Tylon Pitts, Arthur Hall, and Kyle Wasson; back – Dior Parteé, Joshua Brown, Keaton Armstrong, Darrin Massey, Ron Coleman, Ronald Buckley, Rashawn Jones, Anré Parteé, and DeMarvelous Carter.

Many supporters were on hand to cheer for their favorite players – including (from left) Tim Burns, Jeff Smith, Rob Thompson, and Roger Williams – at Romulus High School's recent Alumni Basketball Night. The event featured two games – one for older players, one for younger. Romulus High School has a rich basketball tradition, and is one of only a handful of high schools in the United States to have four graduates play in the NBA.

Third-grader Michael Cole was one of many students who got to perform experiments during Halecreek's annual Science Night. "Helpers" taking part in the event included Western Michigan University student-teacher Kristin Gordon (left) and Romulus High School junior Cilia Sanchez.

The kindergarten students in Barth Elementary School teacher Karen Richard's class were proud to display their Pilgrim costumes at the school's annual Thanksgiving celebration, which was held Wednesday, November 27.

Cheryle Buckley, secretary of the Romulus Community Schools Board of Education, and Billy McCraight, president, showed off a plaque presented to the Board by the Romulus Flyers as a token of thanks for allowing the Flyers to use district facilities for football practices and games.

Enjoying an early Thanksgiving luncheon with Barth teacher Jeff Legg's class were: (from left) Lawrence Dawson with grandmother Carolyn Dawson and mother Cassandra Dawson; Joshua Saltmarshall with mother Ladon Gibbs; and Brittany Turner with mother Rosemary Turner.

Santa Arrives for City Tree-lighting

Following a many-year holiday tradition, Santa Claus made his official arrival in Romulus on the first Friday in December, just in time for the City's community tree-lighting ceremony. The event – held in Romulus Historic Park – featured caroling, led by Paul Lewkowicz and Cub Scout Pack #872, and displays of decorations from "days gone by" at the nearby Samuel R. Kingsley historical house and Historical Museum.

After Santa's stylish entrance – courtesy of a Romulus fire truck – Mayor Alan R. Lambert was pleased to present him with the Key to the City.

Following the ceremony, local children joined Santa at Progressive Hall to share their Christmas wishes and receive stockings stuffed with goodies. The Recreation Department would like to thank the Michigan Week Festival Committee for the stockings donation, as well as the Romulus Fire Station #4 and Romulus Firefighters Local #4126 for donating the hall. ❑

RMS, GM Powertrain Team with "Friends of the Rouge"

Sharon Grandell, head of Romulus Middle School's science department, was pleased to announce the school's new three-pronged approach to helping improve the quality of water in the Rouge River watershed. Grandell's first-hour class will be working with GM Powertrain's Romulus Engine Plant and the Friends of the Rouge organization to accomplish their goal.

"The Rouge River's water quality has improved quite a bit over the last several years," noted Grandell, "but we hope to make even greater strides through this effort."

Lisa Parks, environmental engineer at GM Powertrain's Romulus Engine Plant, was on hand to present the Friends of the Rouge group with a $1,900 check to help fund the efforts of Grandell's class. Both Courtney Shosh, educational project coordinator for the Friends of the Rouge, and Christina Bartoli, assistant coordinator, were on hand to accept the donation.

Shosh and Bartoli indicated that more than 80 different schools are currently involved with taking/testing periodic water samples from specific river and tributary sites. The students analyze the water to determine the concentrations of various key residues. Students then make graphs and charts showing the changing concentrations over time, and present their data to the Friends of the Rouge. The Friends combine the information gathered from the schools and try to identify solutions for any problem areas that may be discovered.

"Our students really look forward to working on this meaningful project," remarked RMS principal Chris Powers, who is also the district's administrative secondary science strand leader. "They hope that their efforts will make a real impact on our regional environmental concerns."

GM environmental engineer Parks added, "The Romulus Engine Plant is proud to be a part of this environmentally sensitive project, and looks forward to further cooperation with the district through Romulus High School's robotics program."

Attending the presentation ceremony were (from left) Sharon Grandell, head of the Romulus Middle School science department; Courtney Shosh and Christina Bartoli, educational project coordinator and assistant coordinator (respectively) for Friends of the Rouge; Chris Powers, RMS assistant principal and administrative secondary science strand leader; Gaye Warren, RMS re-teacher; and Lisa Parks, environmental engineer for GM Powertrain's Romulus Engine Plant.

ROMULUS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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REGULAR MEETING, NOVEMBER 25, 2002

The Regular Meeting of the Romulus Board of Education held at Halecreek Elementary on Monday, November 25, 2002, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Billy McCraight.

Roll call showed members McCraight, Betty Lenossi, Cheryle Buckley, April Frayer, Michael Woods, Celeste Roscoe, and Ken Mientkiewicz present. Administrators Joel R. Carr, Edward Clark, Tom Dolan, and William Routhier were present.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by President McCraight.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

11/02/12 Moved by Buckley supported by Frayer to approve the Agenda as presented. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

11/02/13 Moved by Mientkiewicz supported by Frayer to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 11, 2002, and the Study Session of November 12, 2002, as presented. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Personnel Actions

Mr. Edward Clark, Director of Human Resources, offered the following personnel actions for Board approval.

RESIGNATION: Ryan Wilson, Science Teacher, Middle School, Effective November 15, 2002.

11/02/14 Moved by Mientkiewicz supported by Roscoe to approve the resignation of Ryan Wilson as recommended by Mr. Edward Clark, Director of Human Resources. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

RETIREMENT: Rosemarie Nettle, Secretary, Adult Education, Effective December 31, 2002.

11/02/15 Moved by Lenossi supported by Frayer to accept the retirement of Rosemarie Nettle as recommended by Mr. Edward Clark, Director of Human Resources. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Bills for Payment

11/02/16 Moved by Frayer supported by Buckley to approve the Bills for Payment as presented by Mr. William Routhier, Director of Business and Operations. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Presentation – Community High/Alternative Middle School and Adult Education

Mr. Al Wilkerson and Mr. William Musham were present to update the Board of Education on the Community High, Alternative Middle School, and Adult Education programs. They also responded to questions posed by members of the Board.

No Child Left Behind – MEAP

Mr. Tom Dolan, Director of Curriculum, presented data, discussed the Reading and Math scores for 2002 with the Board of Education, and responded to questions posed by members of the Board.

Plaque to Romulus Community Schools – Romulus Flyers

The Romulus Flyers' John Wester brought a plaque to the Superintendent's office and asked that he present it to the Board of Education to show the Flyers' deep appreciation for the schools' cooperation with their program.

Communications and Expressions from the Public

Mrs. Karen Kusibab asked that pool time be scheduled to accommodate bus drivers' schedules. She also asked about offering water aerobics in the evenings. She was referred to Mr. Bill Musham.

Mr. Ken Berlinn, WCRESA Board member, stated that the Country, relative to No Child Left Behind, has made no decision.

Mrs. Sharon Silveri praised the swimming program for Halecreek's fourth-grade students, as well as instructor Jason Balcom and his assistant. She also presented a picture portfolio of her fourth-grade class.

Items of Interest from the Superintendent

Mr. Joel R. Carr, Superintendent, shared the following items of interest with members of the Board of Education: 1) "Learning to Give" Workshop; 2) Student Referrals to Merriman Site Program; 3) Developer Reworks Plan for Long-dormant Romulus Land; 4) RESA Communication – Thank You – Molly McGlynn; 5) Communication – Linda Norman, City of Romulus; 6) Lansing State Journal – Persuaders Rule Behind the Scene; 7) Technology Committee Minutes – November 4th; 8) November Newsletter – Romulus/Van Buren Adult Ed.; and 9) Romulus Elementary students work to beautify surroundings.

Questions and/or Concerns of Board Members

Mr. Billy McCraight referred High School students' letters (relative to the $10 parking fee, cell phones, and coats in classrooms) to the administration.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

11/02/17 Moved by Woods supported by Lenossi that the Board convene in Executive Session. Roll call vote showed: Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The Board convened in Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. and reconvened in Regular Session at 8:09 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

11/02/18 Moved by Lenossi supported by Woods that the meeting be adjourned. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryle Buckley, Secretary
Romulus Board of Education

Community Calendar

- **Breakfast with Santa** – St. Aloysius Catholic School (37200 Neville) invites the community to attend its "Breakfast with Santa" program on Saturday, December 14, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. After enjoying a meal of eggs, sausage, hash browns, fresh fruit, bagels, pastries, cereal, juice, and coffee/tea/milk, children will have an opportunity to do their own Christmas shopping at Santa's Secret Shop, which features gifts for all ages at reasonable prices. The St. Aloysius Youth Group will be on hand to assist children with gift-wrapping their purchases, free of charge. Other attractions will include a craft table, where kids can make an ornament to take home, and a coloring table for all the little ones. A ticket price of $5 per child ($6 per adult) includes a complimentary photo with Santa. Additional photos are $3 each. All proceeds go to the St. Aloysius Youth Group Scholarship Program.
- **Pet Pix with Santa Claws** – The Romulus Animal Shelter will sponsor a "Santa Claws" photo op for local pet-owners at the old DPW building (corner of Shook and Bibbins) on Saturday, December 14, from 12 to 3 p.m. Cost is $2 per photo. Call the shelter (734-942-7591) for more information.
- **Kwanzaa Discussion** – The African American Book Club will present "Kwanzaa: The Celebration of Family, Community, and Cultural Traditions, Old and New" at the Romulus Public Library (11121 South Wayne Road) on Wednesday, December 18, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. All ages are invited. Refreshments will be served. For more info, call the Library (734-942-7589).
- **Services at St. Paul's** –St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church (corner of Craig and Ellis streets, New Boston) invites the public to attend the following events: Midweek Advent Service (December 18, 7 p.m.); Children's Christmas Program (Tuesday, December 24, 6 p.m.); Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with Communion (10 p.m.); Christmas Morning Service with Communion (10 a.m.); and New Year's Eve Service with Communion (7 p.m.).
- **Holiday Program** – The Romulus Senior Center invites the community to attend its upcoming holiday program, to be held at the Recreation/Senior Center (36515 Bibbins) on Friday, December 20, from 6 to 9 p.m. Besides a visit from Santa, who will have a gift for every child up to 17 years of age (preregistration required by December 18), the free program will feature karaoke (with sing-a-longs provided by St. Aloysius), a magic show performed by Brian Fountain, and entertainment provided by a Michael Jackson impersonator, as well as refreshments for all.
- **Kentuckians of Michigan To Host Bluegrass Show** – The Kentuckians of Michigan will host a "Bluegrass Christmas Party Jam Session" at Liberty Park (28391 Bredow Road in Romulus) from 6:30 to 11 p.m. on Friday, December 20. A buffet supper will be served at 7 p.m.; music begins at 8 p.m. Admission (does not include supper) is $6 per person at the door. For more information, please call 734-782-0132.
- **Sign-ups for Youth Basketball** – The Romulus Recreation Department is accepting registrations for its Youth Basketball League through January 8, 2003. (Absolutely no late registrations will be accepted except to fill teams, as needed.) Teams – composed of players selected through a draft process – will be organized into the following divisions: third- and fourth-grade boys, fifth- and sixth-grade boys, seventh- and eighth-grade boys, third- and fourth-grade girls, fifth- and sixth-grade girls, and seventh- and eighth-grade girls. Practice/play will begin January 11 (draft day) and continue through April 19. A cost of $35 per child/$60 per 2-child family/$70 per 3-child family includes a team T-shirt for each child, but does not include transportation. For more information, call the Recreation Center at 734-942-6852.
- **Walk Commemorates Dr. King's Life and Work** – The Romulus Community Schools and the City of Romulus invite citizens of all ages to participate in the second annual Walk for Warmth on Monday, January 20, 2003. Walkers – who will depart from the Middle School at 8:30 a.m. and proceed to the High School, where a continental breakfast will be served – are asked to bring donations of new or "gently used" hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, coats, blankets, and/or nonperishable food items. A program celebrating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will follow at 9:45 a.m. in the RHS auditorium. Community-service opportunities will be available in the afternoon (preregistration required). For more info, call Kathy Hurst (734-532-1016).

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174–0038; FAX it to us at 734-992-2052; or call 734-941-1907

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Wick, Doubletree Combine on Philanthropic Learning Project

Doubletree Hotel personnel, Wick Elementary School third-graders, school district personnel, and representatives from CS Mott Children's Hospital and Children's Hospital of Michigan got together to celebrate the donation of 2,000 cookies to Ronald McDonald Houses in Ann Arbor and Detroit.

Students at Wick Elementary School recently joined with the Doubletree Hotel of Romulus in a philanthropic learning project. The Doubletree Hotel agreed to prepare 2,000 of their famous cookies and donate them to a charitable organization chosen by the Wick students.

Before making their decision, third-graders in the classrooms of Mary Albus and Lisa Zeleji discussed where the cookies might do the most good this holiday season. Eventually, they selected the Ann Arbor and Detroit "Ronald McDonald House" locations affiliated with CS Mott Children's Hospital and Children's Hospital of Michigan, respectively.

Wick principal Debbie Juriga was very pleased with the thoughtfulness exhibited by her students in their selection of Ronald McDonald House. The organization accommodates people who must temporarily relocate while a child family member is undergoing medical procedures at a hospital far from home.

Doubletree general manager Larry Feeback was happy to present 15 big boxes of cookies to Ronald McDonald House representatives Cathie Burnett (Detroit) and Dave McDowell (Ann Arbor). Both representatives thanked the Wick children for their consideration and wished them a happy holiday season.

Romulus Community Schools officials who attended the presentation ceremony included Joel R. Carr, superintendent, and Kathy Hurst, service-learning coordinator. Hurst's service-learning program also provided each student with a special T-shirt commemorating this unique occasion. ❑

Wick third-graders (from left) Isiah Turner, Earl Smith, and Charlemagne Peak "eyed" Ronald McDonald – as well as some of the delicious cookies being donated! – while Doubletree sales manager Theresa Straub and general manager Larry Feeback looked on.

RHS Students Recognized for Superior Academics

Congratulations to these Romulus High School students, whose hard work and dedication earned them a spot on the honor roll for the second card marking of the 2002–2003 school year.

PRINCIPAL'S HONOR ROLL

Students on the Principal's Honor Roll maintained a grade point average of 3.5 to 4.0.

Ninth Grade

Carla Anderson, Kathryn Appel, Samantha Arnett-Butscher, Megan Bearman, Lindsay Beregsasy, Bradley Bills, Brittany Brooks, Ayibatari Burutolu, Ronald Carter, Adam Delay, Katrell Duncan, Mario Edwards, Jessica Fox, Brittney Garrison, Doloris Garry, Dean Gilbert, Amber Gondek, Brittany Hampton, Shannon Kowalski, Ron Kreutzer, Jennifer Lammers, Erica Linton, Courtney MacDougall, Justin Maupin, Tiffani McCloud, Krystle McKay, Jonathan McLachlan, Ashley Moss, Tiffany Motsch, Amanda Nowicki, Jonathan Rafalski, Anisa Rakic, Cecily Ricer, Anne Ross, Kayla Schmidt, Patricia Silvey, Mary Stewart, Dennis Suiter, Ashlee Wells, Megan Whalen, Patricia Williams, Amanda Willingham, Skylar Winter, and Jessica Workman.

Tenth Grade

Kristen Atchley, Jazmine Bennett, Tiffany Block, Brenden Boyd, Donald Brewer, Ronnie Brown, Chrystal Coleman, Crystal Hahn, Katie Hale, Janet Johnson, Daniel Kinney, Mallori Losacco, Antoinette Nelson, Malcolm Rhodes, Philip Roscoe, Megan Scott, Lindsay Sharp, Sawaira Sheikh, Jessica Shelton, Paulette Stanford, Matthew Steffani, Casey Stevenson, Anastasia Strother, Jamie Suiter, Joann Tieppo, Brytni White, Kimberly Wilson, Lashonda Windham, and Ashley Wright.

Eleventh Grade

Darnell Anderson, Deborah Anderson, Charmaine Atkins, Audrey Baskin, Natalie Blake, Kenneth Booker, Kristina Camilleri, Stephanie Clay, Rhiannon Crawford, Tia Flemings, Latoya Flint, Jessica Frost, Randall Frye, Toni Gibson, Christian Hadden, Danielle Hendricks, Sarah Herbert, Roy Hollis, Sarah Lindroth, Angela Lukas, Patrick McCollum, Hanya Ombima, Lajoya Orr, Kristina Rafalski, Denisa Rakic, Lynsie Ransaw, Britany Sawdy, Sara Schulz, Ricky Staten, Ryan Tackett, Iesha Taylor, Amy Thompson, Rebecca Thornton, Kyle Wasson, and Jeremiah Yeager-Hudson.

Twelfth Grade

Chris Anderson, Jacquelyn Anderson, Clint Bergum, Chris Bostain, Ryan Boyd, Amanda Brewington, Ron Buckley, Tiffany Burrell, Taritonye Burutolu, Kelli Cholette, Kimberly Cotton, Amanda Davis, Julia Deshazor, Brenda Finley, Sarah Gray, Rick Hadyniak, Kelly Hardway, Megan Hatcher, Jamie Henne, Bradley Hindman, Bethany Hotchkiss, Curtis Jackson, Paris Jackson, Magan Kelley, Crystal Koch, Hilary Kozma, Natasha Lowe, Rhonda Matthews, Andrew McNeil, Joseph Miller, Jesse Morris, Robert Nguyen, Nicole Nolan, Heather Patrick, Leslie Perez, Demequa Poole, Robert Rice, Donald Richison, Keona Riley, Andrew Rodger, Da'Shalone Ross, Jamie Stephens, Chris Swantek, Bethany Swauger, Laura Tanner, Brandon Varga, Patrick Webb, Kelli Weimer, Natalie Wheat, Cassandra Wilson, and Mark Woody.

HONOR ROLL

Students on the Honor Roll maintained a grade point average of 3.0 to 3.4.

Ninth Grade

Ronald Baker, James Blanton, Brittni Brown, Merrika Brown, Joshua Carroll, Jasmine Charles, Mari Clay, Carmen Coleman, Shaneta Cotton, Lindsay Coughlin, Katrina Cutliff, Brian Demoisey, Katherine Drayton, Jason Elwell, Kevin Ferguson, Krystin Foster, La'Britney Franklin, Bradley Garland, Carl Gillespie, Samina Haq, Jeremy Hollis, Devone Holmes, Ashley Horyn, Michael Hudson, Jennifer Hunter, Tom-Meka Johnson, Cory Mortzfield, Michelle Nelson, Rhea Parteé, Sherree Patton, Ralonda Peammon, Kristine Plank, Whitney Poole, Timothy Reed, Joshua Rivera, Brian Rodger, Arlennea Savage, Denquia Seals, Diana Thompson, Ileana Usztics, Tanise Walker, Jeremiah Warren, Monica Wells, LeRodd Williams, Stephanie Williams, Tyreke Williams, Velon Willis, Joshua Zirkle, and Brittani Zockheem.

Tenth Grade

Janiece Armstrong, Shavon Bell, Alicia Bracy, Antoine Burrell, Teela Carroll, Anica Coate, Lynette Davis, Yvette Douglas, Derrick Dugan, Ashley Gorkiewicz, Paris Hawkins, Sierra Hicks, Shamara Hill-Harris, Benjamin Hohman, Lucretia Johnson, Carolyn Moore, Angelique Moss, Lindsey Moss, Jessica Obayan, Jeffrey Ottenbreit, Candace Parsons, Michelle Patterson, Dijon Piggee, Jennifer Shelton, Paul Stanford, Dwayne Starnes, Avery Stephenson, Natalie Watt, and Brian Woods.

Eleventh Grade

Aamer Ahmad, Lauren Block, Steve Bostain, Cassie Caldwell, Jerry Collie, Elliot Craig, Christie Davis, Raleah Davis, Jenessa Deshazor, Jessica Deverich, Carissa Drobil, Karrah Duncan, Anthony Foster, Lauren Fox, Sabrina Gomes, Stephanie Gurner, Alicia Harbor, Terry Harper, Justin Heins, Jeffrey Hoffman, Constance Kersey, Shaenna Kettlewell, Aaron King, Lisa Leblanc, Shaepree Lee, Jeremy Linderman, Victoria Lucaj, Patrick Miller, Matthew Mortzfield, Jujuan Mosby, Ashley Much, Natasha Murray, Nereida Pena, Tiffany Ramsay, Lauren Romak, Justin Rooding, Ryan Rooding, Cilia Sanchez, Adrian Simmons, Karron Smith, Chris Speer, Patrecia Sucharski, Michelle Terry, Mark Wheeler, Marvin Wheeler, Rapheal White, Cherie Whorton, Jurbar Williams, Kendra Williams, Reese Williams, Tenisha Williams, Marissa Wilson, Gentjan Xhikola, and Kevin Zajac.

Twelfth Grade

Shannon Allen, Natasha Baldwin, Scott Blackburn, Corey Briggs, Joseph Chisholm, Brittney Clark, Meghan Conway, Amanda Crosby, Sherian Daniel, Sherri Davis, Leatric Dickson, Tiffany Dotson, Albert Duncan, Tierra Gibbons, Della Hamby, Erick Hemmingway, Melissa Holman, Julian Lambert, Kevin Longre, Adam Malloy, Brian Manthei, Jason Messenger, Chris Middlebrooks, Brandon Moring, Darrin Nevels, Joshua Nichols, Erica Ochs, Micahel Patrias, Latoya Pillow, Randy Polk, Celia Samuel, Darrien Sibby, Briana Smith, Clayton Smith, Miyon Smith, Tiffany Smith, Jill Steffani, Rye Theriot, Dennis Thompson, Marica Todd, Brent Tyus, Maurice Webb, Kareena Wells, Jerry White, Angela Williams, Marrika Wise, Schlay Wooden, Megan Woodrow, Sajmir Xhikola, and Shelly Yeramian. ❑

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3rd Grade	1 Space Available
4th Grade	1 Space Available
5th Grade	5 Spaces Available
Miller Elementary School	**(734) 753-4421**
1st Grade	5 Spaces Available
2nd Grade	1 Space Available
3rd Grade	5 Spaces Available
4th Grade	5 Spaces Available
5th Grade	1 Space Available
Renton Junior High	**(734) 782-2483**
6th Grade	5 Spaces Available
7th Grade	2 Spaces Available
8th Grade	3 Spaces Available
Huron High School	**(734) 782-1436**
9th Grade	5 Spaces Available
10th Grade	5 Spaces Available
11th Grade	5 Spaces Available

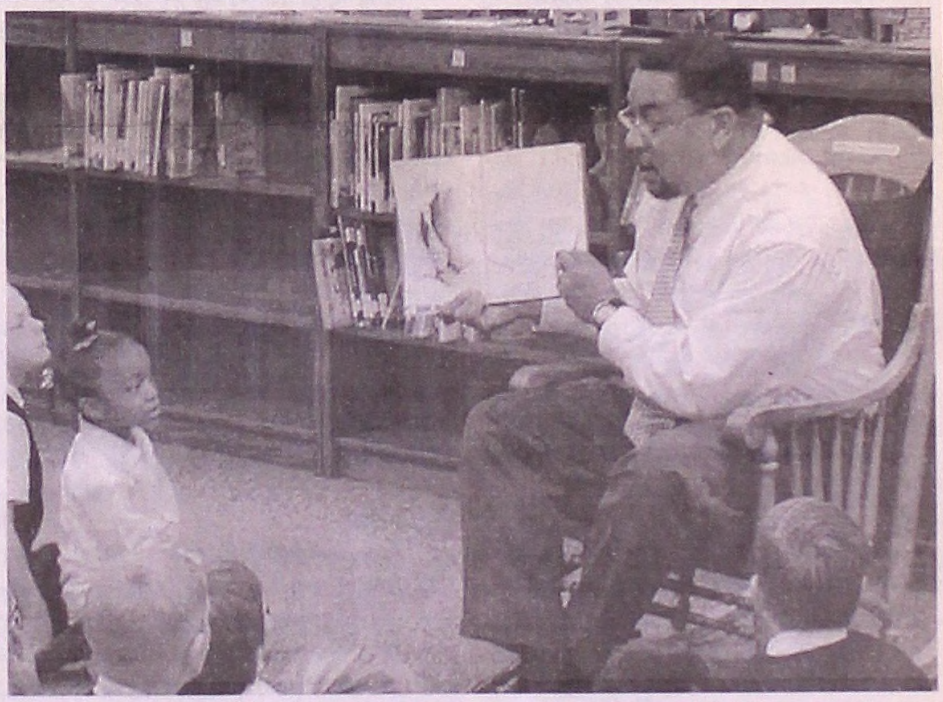
Applications are available at all District buildings and must be returned to the Superintendent's Office by January 14, 2003. (32044 Huron River Drive, New Boston, MI 48164 / 734-782-2441) A lottery drawing will take place if more applications are received than slots available.

Celebrating Children's Book Week

Felicia Williams of Visteon read to third-grade students

Metro Charter Academy celebrated Children's Book Week by inviting parents and other community leaders to read aloud to students at the school.

The special guests included: Steve Jones, director of public relations for the City of Romulus; Dr. Calvin Williams, vice-president of student services at Washtenaw Community College; Felicia Williams, Visteon employee and guest speaker for the Literacy Volunteers of America; Tara McCoy, Mediation Tribunal Association of Wayne County employee and LVA member; Kristen Robinson of Workplace Integrators of Belleville; and Madonna Mrocca, parent.



Steve Jones, the City's director of public relations, read to kindergartners.

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When Traveling During the Holidays, Be Safe! Make Sure You Buckle Up!

Sassy Seniors

By Mary E. Clark

Special thanks to Linda Norman, Senior Citizens Program Coordinator for the City of Romulus, and Melissa Morton, Manager of the Romulus Tower, for contributing information to this issue's "Sassy Seniors" column.

(For more information about events at the Romulus Senior Center, located at 36515 Bibbins, call 734-942-6852.)

Christmas Cards Accepted

The Romulus Senior Center is once again collecting used Christmas cards. Just drop them off at the Center.

Holiday Food Baskets

Again this year, the Romulus Senior Center will be making up some holiday food baskets for local citizens in need. If you would like to make a donation of cash or food items, stop in at the Center.

Free Gift-wrapping

The Romulus Senior Center is offering a free gift-wrapping service to City seniors on Wednesday, December 18, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (Limit: five average-size packages per person.)

Free Addressing of Holiday Cards

The Senior Center is also offering a free card-addressing service for City seniors. Time is the same: Wednesday, December 18, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Holiday Shopping

To aid seniors with their holiday shopping, the Senior Center's van will be traveling to the following locations:

- Farmer Jack/Wal-Mart – Monday, December 16, 9:30 a.m.
- Kmart – Wednesday, December 18, 9:30 a.m.

(Note that the usual transportation fee of $1.50 per trip has been waived for the month of December.)

Lunch Out

December's "Lunch Out" destination will be The Pickle Barrel. The Senior Center van will depart at approximately 11 a.m. on Friday, December 20. Sign up at the Center. (Again, note that the usual transportation fee of $1.50 per trip has been waived for this month only.)

Holiday Gala

The Romulus Senior Center's annual holiday gala will be held at the Doubletree Hotel of Romulus on Thursday, December 26, at 11 a.m. Advance tickets ($10.50 per person; available from the Senior Center) include:

- a delicious lasagna luncheon,
- musical entertainment by The Internationals (a four-piece band) and D&R (a two-piece group),
- dancing,
- party favors, and
- door prizes.

The Lion King

At 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 28, the Senior Center van will be traveling to Henry Ford Museum's IMAX Theater for a showing of Walt Disney's *The Lion King*, followed by dinner at McDonald's. A cost of $8.50 covers transportation and admission to the movie; dinner is extra.

This trip provides the perfect opportunity to get together with your grandchildren during their school holidays! Preregister at the Center.

Weekly Programs

Besides the many special activities offered at the Romulus Senior Center, a number of regularly scheduled free or low-cost programs are also open to local senior citizens.

They include:

- Ceramics (Mondays, 1 and 6 p.m.),
- Club #1 (Tuesdays, 11 a.m.),
- bunco (Tuesdays, 1 p.m.),
- bingo (Wednesdays, 1 p.m.),
- "fun night" (Wednesdays, 5 p.m.),
- pinochle (Thursdays, 12:30 p.m.),
- quilting (Thursdays, 7 p.m.).

Computers, Internet Service Available

Just a reminder that seniors who need access to a computer to learn or practice new skills may use the computers at the Romulus Senior Center, free of charge. Internet service is also available. Appointments are strongly advised.

Ask the Attorney

Local attorney Steve Robinson's monthly "Ask the Attorney" program – a free consultation service for Romulus senior citizens – has been scheduled for 3 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, December 17, at the Center. Walk-ins (36515 Bibbins) and call-ins (734-942-6852) welcome.

Haircuts

The Romulus Senior Center's next haircut date is set for Monday, December 16, beginning at 9 a.m. If you would like to take advantage of this affordable ($5) program, call the Center to make an appointment.

Note: Haircut clients are asked to wash their hair before coming to their appointment, as the Center does not have the necessary facilities.

Hot Lunches

Just a reminder that the Center serves a hot lunch each weekday for $1.75. Call at least 24 hours in advance to make your reservation.

Another Reminder ...

The Romulus Senior Center would like to remind you that its doors will be closed on December 24, 25, and 31, as well as January 1, in observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays. ❑

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The Stork Arrived

Nicholas James Burcroff

Proudly announcing the birth of their new son, Nicholas James Burcroff, are Jim and Cecilia Burcroff of Romulus, Michigan.

Nicholas was born in St. Joseph Mercy Hospital (Ann Arbor, MI) at 11:52 p.m. on Thursday, November 21, 2002, weighing in at 8 pounds, 9 ounces, and measured 22 inches in length.

Especially excited about the new arrival were older siblings Andrew, Emily, and Paul.

Nicholas's paternal grandfather is Dean Burcoff (Romulus). Jim and Mary Ellen Farris (Seattle, WA) are his maternal grandparents. ❑

Nicholas James Burcroff

Engagement

William Ward IV and Shannon Harrison

Shannon and William

James and Christine Harrison of Romulus are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Shannon L. Harrison, to William W. Ward IV, the son of William Ward III of Southgate and Rose Hutchinson of Canton.

The couple – who became engaged on July 23, 2001 – plan to exchange their wedding vows at St. Stephen Church (New Boston) on June 7, 2003. A reception at St. Mary's Cultural Center (Livonia) will follow the ceremony.

Both William and Shannon are graduates of Huron High School in New Boston. William, a resident of Flat Rock, is currently studying at the Michigan Institute of Aeronautics in Belleville and working as an aircraft mechanic for Northwest Airlines in Romulus. Shannon, a Romulus resident, attends Ferris State University in Big Rapids and is employed as a health information specialist at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor. ❑

Obituary

Dorothy Mae (Evanski) Snyr

Dorothy Mae (Evanski) Snyr of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Friday, November 29, 2002. She was 76 years old.

The native of Detroit, Michigan, was born on February 5, 1926.

Dorothy was the beloved mother of Chester (Mira) Snyr, Connie Amer, Cindy (Bob) Haury, Carol (Ken) Barks, Christine Miller, Cheryl (Jeff) Baumann, and John Snyr; loving sister of Bob Evanski; and dearest grandmother of seven grandsons and five granddaughters.

A funeral service was held on Tuesday, December 3, 2002, at the Howe-Peterson Funeral Home (Taylor, MI), with Father Jack Baker (St. Mary Catholic Church, Wayne, MI) officiating.

Burial was at Romulus Memorial Cemetery. ❑

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